



SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

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March 1, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE - PURSUIT OF COUNTY POSITION ON URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT AND STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains a pursuit of County position to support the highest possible funding level of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Department of Homeland Security appropriations for the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Background

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) are the largest Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants which help state and local governments to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards. These programs also are the main ongoing sources of potential Federal funding for improving interoperable communications, such as through the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), which is of critical importance to first responders in Los Angeles County.

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The UASI Grant and SHSGP are especially important to California and the County area, which both receive a disproportionately high share of U.S. total funding. The six UASI urban areas in California have been allocated a combined total of nearly \$125 million (or 21.5 percent) of the \$580 million appropriated for UASI in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016. The State was allocated \$60.2 million (15 percent) of the FFY 2016 SHSGP appropriation of \$412 million. The Los Angeles/Long Beach urban area, which encompasses the entire County, alone was allocated \$68.6 million (11.8 percent) of U.S. total UASI funding. The State has not yet announced FFY 2016 SHSGP allocations to counties. However, the County was allocated \$10.3 million in FFY 2015 when the SHSGP appropriation of \$412 million was the same as in FFY 2016.

Both programs have been funded at a far lower level in recent years than in FFY 2010 when UASI was funded at \$868 million and SHSGP at \$890 million. In FFYs 2014 and 2015, UASI was funded at \$587 million and SHSGP at \$412 million. The President's Proposed FFY 2017 Budget would reduce UASI funding from \$580 million in FFY 2016 to only \$330 million in FFY 2017 and SHSGP to only \$267 million in FFY 2017.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

Under the County's Federal Legislative Agenda, the County's funding priorities for the annual Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill include support for increased funding for both the UASI Grant and SHSGP. The Federal Legislative Agenda also includes policies to support funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, planning, training, equipment, and improved interoperable communications systems, all of which could be funded using UASI and SHSGP funds.

Based on these existing policies, and unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will support the highest possible level of FFY 2017 Department of Homeland Security appropriations for the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and State Homeland Security Grant Program.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
MT:gl

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist